

neighbors. Efforts like these are planned in almost every congressional district throughout the Nation.

Our ability to improve the living standards of citizens in America and around the globe depends upon our understanding of sciences like chemistry. Our food, clothing, houses, cars, medicines, defense—all the things we can see, taste, touch, or smell—depend on modern chemistry. Additionally, those involved in the chemistry field represent the type of skilled, high quality workers that are essential to this Nation's competitiveness.

So please join me, and the 152,000 chemists and chemical engineers of the American Chemical Society, in highlighting the fact that every single thing in our lives is in some way a result of chemistry in action.

THE TROPICAL RAINFOREST CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KASICH, and I are introducing, the Tropical Rainforest Conservation Act of 1998. The purpose of this bill is to facilitate the protection of tropical rainforests through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical rainforests.

It is the established policy of the United States to seek the protection of the world's tropical rainforests, which provide a wide range of benefits to humankind. In spite of international assistance programs to conserve forest resources, tropical deforestation continues unabated.

Debt reduction can reduce economic pressures on developing countries and result in increased protection for tropical rainforests. This bill will revitalize U.S. "debt-for-nature" programs, giving priority to countries that have rainforests with the highest level of biodiversity and under the most severe threat.

HONORING WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Westchester-Putnam Affirmative Action Program is a non-profit, nonpartisan, interracial organization dedicated to providing job training and finding employment in the construction trades for minorities, women, and the economically disadvantaged. It is comprised of representatives of the construction trades, building contractors, minority and women's groups and is celebrating its 25th anniversary as a successful force for bringing minorities, women, and others into the construction trade.

It has placed more than 4,000 such people in construction related jobs throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties. It administers the only federally approved hometown plan to achieve compliance for the Executive order requiring minimum goals for the employment of women and minorities in the biconity area.

I am proud to say that all of its placements are from among the poor, bringing these people in the mainstream of productivity.

W-PAAP is celebrating by paying tribute to the Joseph T. Jackson Training Center and the man it was named after. The late Joseph T. Jackson was the first black master mechanic in the Nation.

Also being honored are those who helped make W-PAAP a success: the NYS Department of Labor, Westchester County, Con Edison, the contractors and labor unions, and original board members Virginia Monahan, Orial Redd, Napoleon Holmes, and Thomas Green.

The success of W-PAAP is an inspiration to all and I give them my congratulations for all they have accomplished.

TRIBUTE TO NOVATO COUNCILMEMBER ERNEST J. GRAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to day to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, Mr. Ernest J. Gray. Mr. Gray is retiring as councilmember for the city of Novato after 20 years of outstanding service. I wish I could join his family, friends, and colleagues in celebrating his distinguished career.

Mr. Gray is the city's longest serving councilmember. During his tenure, he served as Novato's mayor for four terms—more often than any other member of the council. Prior to joining the city council, he served on the Novato Planning Commission.

Ernie Gray's devotion to the community is admirable. He has been a member of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Homeless, the Highway 101 Corridor Action Committee, the Human rights Commission, and was involved with the Community Development Block Grant. And, he has worked tirelessly to complete the reuse of Hamilton Air Force Base.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Ernie Gray. His service to the residents of Novato will be greatly missed. I wish him the best in his retirement from public office.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT OSHA FROM USING PENALTY QUOTAS

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, over the past 3 years, the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections has held numerous hearings on issues surrounding OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. While these hearings have considered a great many issues, time after time we have returned to the fundamental question: What is the purpose of OSHA? Is it to enforce rules that it has issued against supposedly recalcitrant employers? Or is it to promote workplace safety by whatever means that are most effective?

Consider these two quotes, from testimony the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections received from two recent directors of OSHA, one in the Bush administration, the second from the director of OSHA in the first Clinton administration.

Congress, for years, measured OSHA's effectiveness by the number of inspections

completed, the number of serious citations issued, the number of dollar penalties collected, the number of willful violations issued and the number of criminal cases referred to the Justice Department for prosecution. Are these the appropriate measures to determine the effectiveness of this Act? Or should the question be: "Are hazards in the workplace being abated? Are injury rates being reduced?" That really is the crux of the issue: what is the most effective approach to achieving hazard abatement and injury reduction. Again, we are talking about changing long standing, systemic problems with the agency. Because the agency's success was measured for years by its punitive activity, it has become organized accordingly.

(Testimony of Dorothy Strunk, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, March 8, 1995).

Many employers have complained that OSHA inspectors care less about worker safety than they do about meeting perceived "quotas" for citations and penalties. While OSHA has never used quotas, it has in the past used citations and penalties as performance measures. I have put a stop to this practice.

(Testimony of Joe Dear, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, March 8, 1995).

My legislation would simply make the Clinton administration's commitment part of the law. It makes clear that OSHA's purpose is to improve safety and health for employers and employees—not just enforcement.

Why is this legislation necessary if the Clinton administration has already stated it agrees with the policy? First, as the above statement indicates, OSHA's focus on enforcement numbers is long standing and systemic. Saying that the agency will change its personnel policies does not necessarily effectuate real change. Second, despite the Clinton administration's promise to change, the leadership of the agency continues to focus on enforcement measures as the purpose of the agency. Earlier this year, the acting assistant secretary for OSHA told all OSHA offices to increase the number of inspections in 1997, and to increase the number of large penalty cases. Third, putting this provision in the statute will help to assure employers and employees that OSHA's mission is not to collect money for the Federal Government, but to promote safety and health. I view this change as a small step, but in conjunction with other steps I am proposing, helpful to redirecting OSHA away from its focus on enforcement, rather than on safety and health.

CONGRATULATING DOZIER T. ALLEN, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Calumet Township Trustee, Dozier T. Allen, Jr., on his 30-year anniversary as an elected public official. Dozier will be honored for his years of dedicated service to the communities of northwest